

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. The applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated October 19, 2001.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner sets forth the following rejections:

1) claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Pritchard (U.S. Patent No. 907,875);

2) claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Farls (U.S. Patent No. 2,710,639); and

3) claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103() as being unpatentable over Pritchard or Farls in view of Mercier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,603,573).

All of these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Significant structural arrangements of the Applicant's claimed invention, as amended, now include, *a completely waterproofed bag means comprising a main body made of a mesh material as a whole except an opening portion thereof, a completely waterproofed inner bag to be put in the main body detachably, and a smooth-surface outer cover which is detachably put outside of a main body to cover said mesh material completely.*

It is respectfully submitted that Pritchard, Farls and Mercier et al., singly or in combination fail to disclose or fairly suggest the feature of *a smooth-surface outer cover which is detachably put outside of a main body to cover said mesh material completely.*

More specifically, the Examiner acknowledges that "Pritchard and Farls each disclose the claimed device except for a smooth-surface outer cover detachably secured to the outside of the mesh main body."¹ (Emphasis Added).

In order to overcome the above-noted drawback and deficiencies of Pritchard and Farls, the Examiner relies on the secondary reference of Mercier.

However, Mercier does not teach that the bottom panel 14 and two lateral panels 15 that make up the support 11 cover the mesh portion completely. That is, Mercier fails to disclose or fairly suggest the feature of *a smooth-surface outer cover which is detachably put outside of a main*

¹Please see, lines 24-25, page 2 of the outstanding Action.

body to cover said mesh material completely.

Instead, Mercier discloses that the panels 14 and 15 only cover a portion of the mesh container 12 and not the mesh portion completely.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

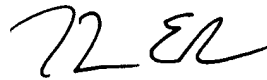
AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/764,212

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



Thomas E. Brown
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 44,450

Atty. Docket No. 010049

1725 K Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: (202) 659-2930
TEB/kas

Enclosure: Version With Markings To Show Changes Made
H:\FLOATERS\TEB\teb\01\010049\Amend 1.111.frm

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 2, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A completely waterproofed bag means comprising a main body made of a mesh material as a whole except an opening portion thereof, [and] a completely waterproofed inner bag to be put in the main body detachably,

and a smooth-surface outer cover which is detachably put outside of a main body to cover said mesh material completely.